

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



VOLUME 73

NUMBER 8

2021

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

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August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 PENTECOST 10 10:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	2 Civic Holiday (Canada)	3	4	5	6 10:00 Men's Coffee Time RUMMAGE 9 AM – 3 PM	7 SALE 9 AM – 1 PM
8 PENTECOST 11 10:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Diaconate/Trustees Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	14
15 PENTECOST 12 Mary, Mother of Our Lord 10:00 Divine Worship Rev. Justin Marple, preaching	16	17	18	19	20 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	21
22 PENTECOST 13 10:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	23	24 Bartholomew, Apostle	25	26	27 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	28
29 PENTECOST 14 10:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	30	31	☺ August is a time for looking forward to fall and the starting up of activities. Do you have any ideas you could pass along to the Diaconate or Trustees? ☺ Remember the Rummage Sale this month!			

August Birthdays

11 Michael Baxter
 12 Pam Hash
 14 Debbie Boeskin
 15 Judy Ward
 17 Herb Lewis
 28 Jenn Benn



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Hazel Baxter, 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.

Address Change

Mrs. Judy Ward

Brookdale Niagara – Room 404

6741 Nash Road

No. Tonawanda, NY 14120

Telephone: 716-216-4625



August 1 — Sunday — PENTECOST 10

Holy Communion

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

August 6 & 7 **RUMMAGE SALE**

Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 Am – 1:00 PM

August 8 — Sunday –PENTECOST 11

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

12:15 Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

August 15 — Sunday — PENTECOST 12

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Rev. Justin Marple, preaching

*Third Sunday personal items collection
for Heart, Love & Soul.*

August 22 — Sunday —PENTECOST 13

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

August 29 — Sunday —PENTECOST 14

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

Church Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday — Friday
 716-282-4666 — nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org — www.niagarafallsbaptist.org
 James D. Flood, FWTC, FCSM - Church Administrator and Editor



How about a new T-shirt for summer? 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.

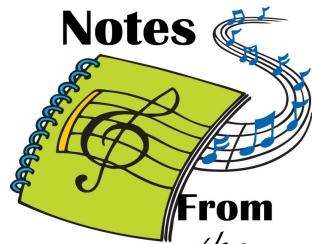
Sizes available are Large and Extra Large (they will shrink a little).

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.

Notes



From the Moderator

SUMMER AT FIRST BAPTIST is our time to welcome visitors from anywhere and everywhere, family and friends, and to enjoy vacations and sunshine. We thank Kay Buckley and Ron Bowser for providing and organizing our welcome gifts and hope our good wishes travel with the recipients.

Summer is also a preparation time for fall activities and programs. We will welcome back our Daisies and Brownies and a potentially a Cadet group. We thank our summer volunteers who have been mowing the lawn, trimming bushes and clearing out the weeds. Chris Taylor and John Burrows have kept our grounds in good condition.

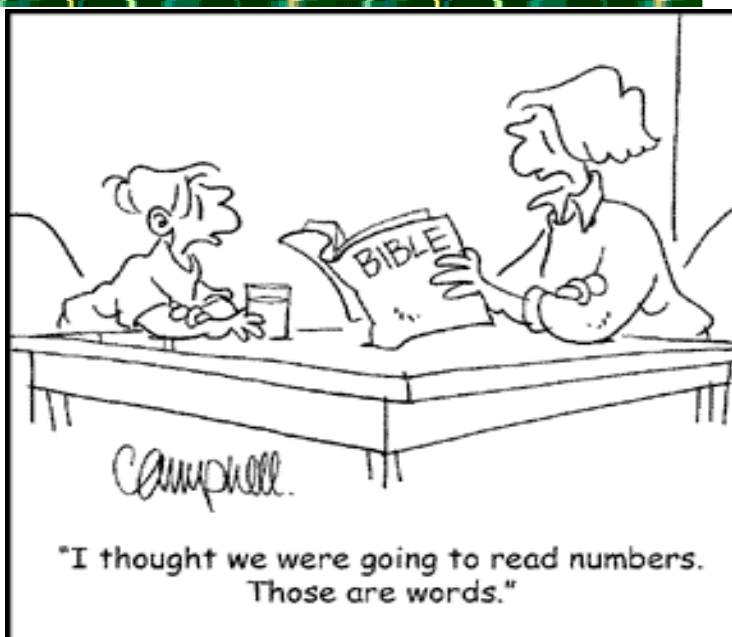
One of our additions to the service has been children's sermons and our thanks go to Katona Hoopsick for her entertaining and informative words. Kids aren't the only ones enjoying the mini lessons, the adults do as well. As summer progresses, plans are in the works for fall Sunday school for kids. We start off on Rally Day Sunday.

Our Rummage Sale 2.0 is scheduled for August 6 & 7 so please tell all your friends that we have a lot of gently used items for sale. We have housewares, entertainment items, clothes, furniture and much, much more for sale at clearance prices. Stop by to browse and say hello.

We continue to pray for those affected by the pandemic and their families. Protocols are still being followed and will continue as long as needed. Thank you to all who have worn masks, signed in for contact tracing purposes, and kept hands clean. Stay healthy and be safe.

Donna Flood

Moderator





"I'm being petitioned to ignore last week's petition."



"Mr. Harris moves that we play softball. Do I hear a second?"



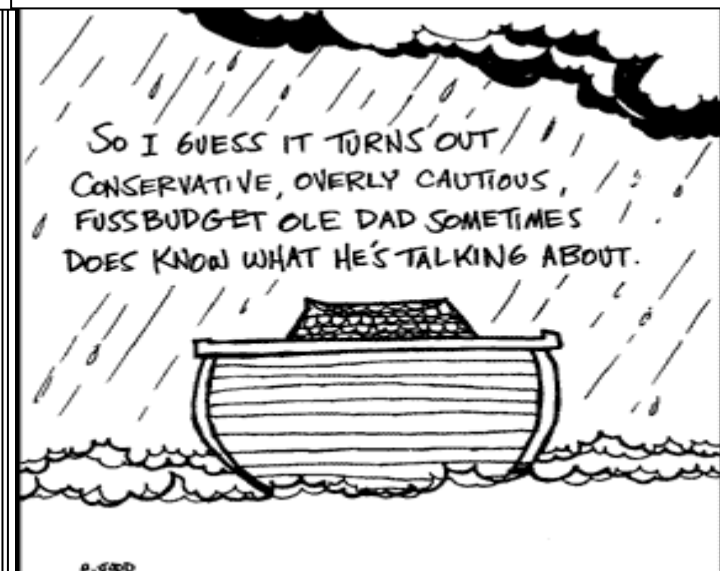
"Frankly, I think the drive thru window defeats the purpose of the fellowship dinners."



"Sarah, let's lose the by-line 'The One True Church West of Highway 53' when answering the telephone."



The newly installed bunk pews were the answer to Mountain Valley's rapid growth, though they took a little getting used to.





The Trinity

The Trinity is the name of an icon created by Russian painter Andrei Rublev in the 15th century. It is based on Genesis 18 where Abraham meets God as represented by Three Persons who promise that Sarah would bear a son. Behind them is a house, a dwelling place. We remember that Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many dwelling places. I go to prepare a place for you.” What, for us, would be heaven, and what would that dwelling place be like, for us?

We can also remember Jesus saying, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” So this heavenly dwelling place is being custom-made for us, for you, where each of us will be “companioned” by God. A companion is a “bread mate,” someone with whom to share meals and share life. This is symbolized by the three heavenly beings sitting at table, with an open place waiting for you.

When people have difficulty understanding the Trinity I have two metaphors that I use in explanation. Firstly, there is a young woman who calls me Father. There is an older woman who calls me Son. And I live with a woman who calls me Husband. Which am I? Actually, I can be experienced in all these ways. Just as helpful to me is the YMCA description of a person as Body, Mind and Spirit. As part of my own prayers each night I give thanks for my physical life, for my mental life and for my spiritual life, so I guess I too am three in one – in the image of God in that sense.

I decided to write on this because, wondering what I do at First Baptist Church, a friend humorously guessed that a Scholar-in-Residence probably attempts to explain such things as the Trinity to the folks in the congregation. So this is the first of a little series on such things. We’ll try a little something on *Creation Ex Nihilo* next month.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian".

Rev. Dr. Brian Arthur Brown, Scholar-in-Residence, First Baptist Church, NF, NY

When God Gives You Rain...



Play in the Puddles!

Rev Kath Ordiway

I've been thinking a lot about the storms in our lives ... sometimes we clearly see the sun on the other side, so we get through the storm easily. Sometimes we wonder when the rain will stop. Sadly, sometimes we wonder, why me?

Without the rain, though, there is no rainbow... Without the darkness, there is no light. Okay, that's easy to say, but not always easy to live through. Remember the words of Joshua 1:9 – “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” We aren't in this alone. When we are saddened by death, by disappointments, by losses – we are promised that God walks alongside us, God carries us. We will have sorrow in our lives. We will face losses. We will cry. We may face abandonment by those we thought were our friends. But we are never alone. God is always with us.

This past July, Toby and I went camping with Eileen, Mike and the four kids. We had been planning it since January – but the weather didn't much care how excited we were to be out in nature. Before heading out, it rained all week and our campsites were saturated. When we arrived Friday afternoon, it was sunny and we found a dry spot to set up the kids' tent (we were in our RV and our site was stoned – so we were good). We went to Howe Cavern and the Fenimore Art Museum on Saturday. Sunday we went to Mike's family reunion at his parents' and the rain started again. What to do?

After much concern ... the tent was very close to a creek bed - we realized that since Mike's three kids were starting their two-week vacation with Grandma and Grandpa on Monday, they could start one day earlier. We left the three kids and Thomas with Mike's parents and headed back to camp. I stayed dry and moved everything in the RV so that our three surprise guests had room to sleep. Toby, Eileen and Mike went to the tent site, in the torrential rain, and packed up all their belongings into the car and then took down the tent. Now, it wasn't a little pump tent either. It was a 20-person, 5 room tent!! But they took it down quickly and actually had fun doing it since they knew their children were safe and they had a dry, warm place to sleep that night. After taking the tent down, they actually played in the puddles (see the pic of the three of them soaking wet)!!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Eileen and Mike gave thanks that, although they had to take the tent down in the rain, the family was safe. They gave thanks that they found joy in the trial.

Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 – “Consider the work of God; who can make straight what He has made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider; God has made the one as well as the other, so that mortals may not find out anything that will come after them.” It will not always be as easy as Eileen and Mike had it. Fires destroy homes. Cancer takes our loved ones. Businesses close and jobs are lost. But always we need to find the joy in our lives. We need to remember that we are never abandoned. We need to look for the people God has given us as our family, as our village. We need to search for and see the good that surrounds us when it can be hard to find.

We need to jump in the puddles when God gives us rain.



A word of encouragement

Over the last 18 months, the tragedy we have seen and felt during the pandemic, can feel like just too much. My colleague, Roshan Mendis, is the Head of Operations for Asia Pacific Baptist Aid and recently shared his thoughts. They were so powerful that I simply had to share.



Trusting God in the Worse Season of Your Life

As images of the devastating humanitarian catastrophe caused by COVID19 from the COVID crisis in India kept coming in, this image of a man next to the burning pyre of his family member, a victim of Covid19 has become a mental afterimage on my mind.

Tell me, what will you do in the wake of the worst moment of your life?

At an intersection of tragedy or crisis, will that day drive you from your faith - or to a new depth of trust in God, who wants to use every moment for good?

In the early days of the church, many people who witnessed the murder of Stephen felt it was the worst day of their lives. Stephen had been one of the most popular and effective men in the early

church. He was godly to the core and filled with grace, and love, and the ability to do signs and wonders as he prayed in the name of Jesus. Stephen was one of a kind, and many people looked up to him. Thousands of new believers worshiped in Jerusalem, and most of them must have loved Stephen.

Then in Acts 8 we see a flash of violence erupted at a key intersection for the church. Without warning, the unbelievable became a reality! Stephen was arrested, charged, and executed. The enemies of the church took off their gloves and stoned Stephen, breaking his body and leaving him lifeless on the rocks of the killing place.

The killing of Stephen then opened the door for all kinds of persecution. Men, women, teen-agers, boys and girls ran for their lives. Some of them couldn't run fast enough. Some of them landed in prison. Some of them would eventually lose their lives, as Stephen had. If the early church had written a book titled "Worst Days Ever," many a chapter would have been hurriedly written around the events of Acts 8.

I've known several "worst days." Perhaps you have, too. Or perhaps your "worst day" is just at the next intersection. When it comes to your worst day, know this: It is possible to trust God after the worst day of your life. In fact, trusting God on that day will be your only hope. If your faith can be proved in the wake of your worst day ever, then you've got a powerful faith. A mighty and powerful faith.

Interestingly in this passage, Paul who was Stephen's persecutor and oversaw that whole operation.... Had an amazing change of heart and joined the band of believers and more than that became a promoter of the Gospel. As an apostle of the Church thereafter, he had his share of suffering almost getting a taste of the very thing he had inflicted upon the early church. Having described the ministry of the gospel as a mixture of suffering and blessing which eventually results in life coming to believers. In 1 Corinthians chapter 4, Paul leaves with us three key lessons that I'd like to remind you of.

I. Remember who God is - 4:13

For the early Christians, Stephen's funeral only promised more funerals; it now became open season on Christians. They escaped Jerusalem, but the persecution followed them throughout Judea. Then it followed them through Samaria. They ran toward Galilee, Asia, Egypt, and Rome, pulling up roots and trying to carry enough stuff to pay for the journey. Saul would be willing to travel more than 125 difficult miles - either on foot or on an uncomfortable donkey - to arrest Christians in Damascus. Imagine the hatred that would make a man travel that far. Imagine the fear of those who were hiding!

If life has declared open season on you, know this: It's just an unfortunate part of life. Nothing in the Bible, nothing in the nature of God suggests that bad things won't happen in the course of life. If you live long enough, some things will, in fact, nearly crush you.

But know something else: The worst day of your life does not change the nature of God, or the nature of God's love for you. It doesn't negate your existence, doesn't change your love for others around you.

Remember who God is, and you've begun the survival process.

II. Remember what God can do 4:14.

Paul then explained why (because) he believed as the psalmist did, that even in the midst of great suffering God would deliver the ministers of the gospel.

Producing fruit from worst days seems to be a pattern with God. Consider this verse from Acts: **Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. (Acts 8:4)**

That's it. Just a little sentence that represents an incredible movement of God's people.

Thanks to the persecution of God's people, thanks to the worst days of those lives, the message of Christ became a world-wide phenomenon.

Why did good come out of bad, after the worst day in so many lives? Only because people remember what God could do. when you can't see how he is working. Trust God on this one. He can bring good out of the worst day of your life. God is the only one, in fact, who can bring good out of such a day. God is in control, and God is good.

III. Allow God to keep working through you

Trust God with the answer. It may not be the answer you expected. It may not be the answer you wanted. But you need to trust God. He loves you, and he only wants what's best for you. We like to be in control, and sometimes we think we are in control. But that can all change in a moment. Sometimes our best isn't good enough. Sometimes our life spins out of control no matter how much we do, no matter how hard we try. What are we going to do then? We must keep trusting in the Lord! Keep trusting God through all of your troubles.

The most important part of the story about Stephen's death and the persecution of the believers may be contained in a simple phrase from in **Acts 8:5 "Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there."**

At first glance, these few words may not impress you, but consider: **It's believed this Philip is the same as mentioned in Acts 6:5, one of the seven deacons selected to serve the church. Philip, too, is the very first deacon listed after Stephen. Were they close friends? Very likely.** Did Philip hurt to see Stephen murdered? It must have broken his heart to hold his friend, to see him wrapped in a grave sheet, to lay him to rest, to know he would never see the flash of his friend's smile again.

But Philip did something we all must do if we'll ever see good come out of the worst day of our lives. Philip kept breathing, kept moving, and kept living. When he got his breath, when he made plans for the next day of life, he kept his faith. He did not turn away from his God, he did not leave the family of faith, he did not lose his trust in Christ.

And that's the point. When the worst day of your life comes, If you can make the courageous decision to keep putting one foot in front of the other, if you can make the important faith step of turning to God

alone for your strength, you'll discover a wonderful reality - God can use the worst day of your life to take your faith into new areas of strength, to work miracles in the wake of tragedy, to bring good out of something that is no good at all.

That's power. That's the kind of power you'll find only under the care of the Holy Spirit.

When the worst day of your life comes, the pain will be beyond unbearable, and it will hurt forever. We are designed to hurt, to grieve, to cry, to panic, to scream, to fall on the ground and admit that we can't take the pain. That's the way we're made.

And it's true, too, that if you open your Bible on the day after, if you pray on the morning after, if you go back to church the Sunday after, the pain will still be there. It takes time for the grief process to work its course, and we grieve after any loss. It takes time for the smile to return, for the laughter to shake our bellies again. It just takes time and a working through of the process.

God grieves with you! But if you manage to read your Bible, to pray, to thank God for his goodness, and to be around your church family in the wake of your worst day, then you are exercising your faith, and - in time - that exercise of faith will bear wonderful fruit.

So when you wake up on the morning after the worst day, read your Bible. When you get over the shock, pray. When you gather your wits about you, spend time in praise of God, and thanksgiving to God, and in worshipping the Holy God.

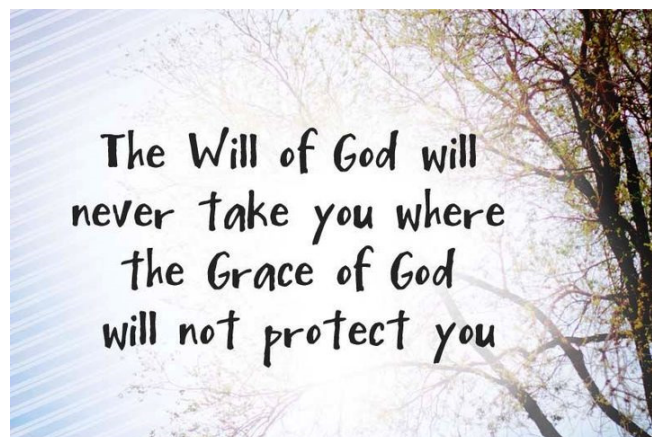
When Sunday comes, be in church. Be around those Christians that God has given you.

These are all faith steps, grace steps or steps of trust.

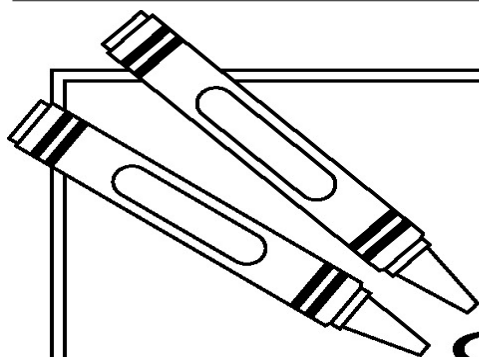
Take them. Keep taking those steps, no matter how small they are. Just keep walking.

The pain is only a season and is intended for a reason.

- Roshan Mendis



Kristy Engel, Global Consultant for Health



Just for KIDS

GOOD MEDICINE

During this time of year many people get a cold or the flu. Doctors can give medicine to help those people feel better. The Bible suggests something that we can give to make someone feel better anytime of the year. Proverbs 17:22 says, "A cheerful heart is good medicine" What is the best way to show our cheerfulness?

Connect the numbered dots to find out!

Start > 28 > 40 > 50 > 49 > 48 > 47 > 34 > Stop

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Start > 34 > 45 > 56 > 68 > 80 > 92 > 104 > Stop

Start > 57 > 69 > 81 > 70 > 59 > 58 > 57 > 70 > Stop

Start > 70 > 71 > 72 > 73 > 74 > 65 > 75 > 85 > 74 > Stop

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OUR HISTORY CORNER



We are delving into our archives to bring our wonderful past to light.

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

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S HISTORY CORNER: Rev. Eric and Helen Hill.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

New master's program in peace-building

Global Servants Katrina & Kyle Williams, Thailand



When I woke up on Monday morning, I had no idea that within a few hours I would be loading luggage into a van and driving west for nine hours to help facilitate the teaching of a new master's program in a Karen village near the border. Students have embarked on a two-year program in peace-building. We knew the program was being formed but issues with COVID-19 kept pushing it back so we took this window to get started. Many of the young people in this program have first-hand knowledge of the need for peacebuilding work. Some of them have experienced recent violence, others fled their villages as children after their homes were burned or bombed. Peace-building is not abstract for any of them...