

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



VOLUME 73

NUMBER 6

2021

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

IN THE JUNE ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
 - ➔ p. 6 — Dr. Brown Writes
 - ➔ p. 7 — CWS Report
 - ➔ p. 8 — Rev. Kath writes
- ➔ p. 9 — ABCUSA Announces Spiritual Focus
 - ➔ p. 10 — Just for Kids
 - ➔ p. 11 — Our History Corner
- ➔ p. 12 — One Great Hour of Sharing

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✠ It's RUMMAGE SALE time! Do you have additional items to donate? Call the church office. It's possible to pick up some items. Also plan to come to see if there are some treasures you can't live without for sale! Not only does the RUMMAGE SALE help the church's budget; it's a service to the community.</p>		1	2	3	<p>4 10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	5
<p>6 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching</p>	7	8	9	10	<p>11 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM RUMMAGE SALE</p>  <p>Barnabas, Apostle</p>	12 9:00 – Noon RUMMAGE SALE
<p>13 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching 3:00 Memorial Service for Betty Richardson</p>	14  Flag Day	15	16	17	<p>18 10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	19  JUNETEENTH
<p>20 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching FATHER'S DAY</p>	21  Summer Begins	22	23	24 John the Baptist	<p>25 10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	26
<p>27 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Justin Marple, preaching</p>	28	29 Peter and Paul, Apostles	30	<p>✠ Please note that on Sunday afternoon, June 13th, at 3:00 PM there will be a special Memorial Service for Betty Richardson. Please let your friends and any of Betty's friends that you know of the time and date.</p>		

June Birthdays

- 5 Henry Buchalski
- 6 Eileen Palmer Wrobel
- 9 Connie Davis
- 9 Jenny Brown
- 22 Christeen Palmer Salimbene



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Judy Ward, 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.



June 6 — Sunday — PENTECOST 2

Holy Communion
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

June 11 – Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

RUMMAGE SALE

June 12 – Saturday – 9: AM – 12 Noon

RUMMAGE SALE

June 13 — Sunday –PENTECOST 3

12:15 Trustees/Diaconate Meeting
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
3:00 Memorial Service for
Betty Richardson

June 20 — Sunday — PENTECOST 4

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

June 27 — Sunday —PENTECOST 5

Rev. Justin Marple, 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



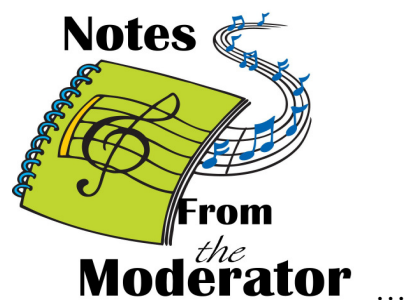
How about a new T-shirt for spring? We have a shipment of T-shirts with First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, imprinted on them below the "I Love My Church" slogan.

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.



THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS blooming at our church have been planted after a cleanup by the Daisy/Brownie group that will be meeting again soon. They have donated their time, effort, and flowers in community service and we thank them for all their hard work.

The Spring Rummage Sale will be held on June 11 and 12 and has been organized by Lydia Hoopsick. The gym never looked better and items are displayed to sell, sell, sell. Photos of larger items will be on Facebook and also on sale.

Our congregation will hold a Memorial Service for Betty Richardson on Sunday, June 13 at 3:00 PM. Her service to the community and our church has been an example for us all to follow. Join us in remembering her.

Membership class is available in person or via Facebook. Contact Rev. Kath Ordiway if you wish to be a member. If you are already a member of another church, you may transfer your membership easily to First Baptist and the Right Hand of Fellowship will be extended to you on the Sunday of your choice. Contact the office for assistance.

The Annual Meeting was held and the election of officers, trustees and deacons has been completed. We thank Chris Taylor and Katona Hoopsick for contacting members to serve. We thank those who have become inactive due to health concerns for their years of service. Your time and effort for Christian effort is an example for us all.

Donna Flood
Moderator



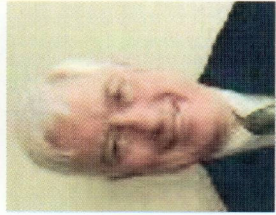


From the desk of Brian Brown . . .

A thoughtful look at ways in which the United Church of Canada has engaged in mission in inspiring ways as we build again towards the next 100 years. **Carmen Lansdowne** (or *Kwisa lakwin* in her Heiltsuk First Nation), **Executive Director, First United Church Community Ministry, Vancouver.**



The future of our church is only now being defined. *Keys to the Kingdom* even illustrates how new sources of income from legacy gifts and endowments may enable congregations to face emergent opportunities with confidence. A must read for all church leaders including those in my congregation, Metropolitan United Church, Toronto. We will be ordering in bulk.



Doug Flanders, Past Chair, The United Church of Canada Foundation

Brown may be right that "The money is available and we have the property" but for congregations to flourish in diversity they also need to have relational connections. In informal cluster events diverse new congregations and established old congregations have much to offer to each other in Christian faith and in mission to one another.



Michael Blair, General Secretary, The United Church of Canada

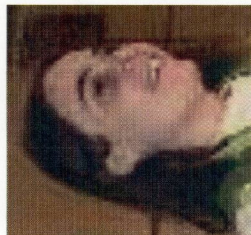
Note from Brian Brown to First Baptist Readers

This is the back cover for a new coffee table book I have written for the United Church of Canada. I mentioned in the annual report that I would offer something from this book in our next *Tower Topics* magazine. These are just blurbs for the publisher, but they may indicate something of importance for this church also. Old well-propriated churches like us must make space for Christians of diverse backgrounds as both Canada and the USA continue to depend on immigration to flourish. First Baptist has been right on in this regard, but all congregations need to be vigilant to look like what the country will soon look like if we hope to preserve our Christian heritage. - Brian

Keys to the Kingdom is one-part intimate memoir; one-part loving tribute; and one-part visionary challenge. The United Church family, approaching 100, has been by turns triumphant and assailed, yet ever faithful to the gospel. In not chanting a dirge, Brian Brown charts a future, and that future rocks! **Jim Christie, Interfaith Canada, Dean of Theology Emeritus, University of Winnipeg**



Church leaders and members of congregations are looking for signs of hope. *Keys to the Kingdom* is filled with stories of new beginnings and a concrete vision for the future - from a refreshingly Canadian perspective. **Alison Etter, Warden United Church and Knox United Church, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia**



Visionnaire, solide, stimulant, révèle le renouveau indétecté dans l'église Unie du Canada, souvent dans la marge et sans moyens adéquats, incluant **Aborigène, Francophones, Communautés culturelles et les vies noires** comptent. Lecture Indispensable! Enfin! Une stratégie de Espérance! **Pierre Goldberger, Ancien Ministre Exécutif des Ministères en Français de l'Église Unie**



本書/书作者指出少數/数民族和移民组成的地方教會/会在加拿大聯/聯合教會/会以往一百年歷/历史中及未來一世紀的發/发展，都佔有重要的地位。

This work highlights the significance of United Church "ethnic minority" congregations in the past hundred years, and the potential for diverse migrant/immigrant congregations in expanding developments leading into our next century. **Greer Anne Wenh-In Ng 伍 吳 詠 嬌 Professor Emerita, Emmanuel College, Victoria University, University of Toronto**



CWS KITS | CWS BLANKETS

IMPACT REPORT 2020

The CWS Kit and Blanket Programs are two of the many ways Church World Service shares in a hope-filled tomorrow. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of children and families all over the world. Here's how CWS has provided kits & blankets through your support of this program.

Since January, we've distributed **63,967 CWS Blankets and Kits in the United States.**

"We are very appreciative of those who spend time to fill those hygiene kits. It must take a long time! I wish I could be there to thank them in person! If you knew the value they are to our people, you would know how much they are appreciated. And the time to put them together, they are so valuable and a gift from God."

-DOTTIE VILLESVIK, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVERETTE, WA



Since January, we've distributed **37,505 CWS Blankets and Kits internationally.**



TOTAL KITS AND BLANKETS DISTRIBUTED GLOBALLY: **101,472**

**CWS**

cwskits.org
cwsblankets.org

Father's Day

Some of us have or had amazing dads – they showed us love, patience, kindness; they were attentive and interested in us. Some of us never knew our dads – maybe they died, maybe we were adopted, maybe they abandoned our family. Some of us have bad memories of our dads – whether it's because they were cold, abusive or never spent time with us. Dad's come in all shapes and forms, good and bad.

In biblical times, a father was the protector, a father was the provider. That is what God is to us! Jesus called God His Father, Our Father ... and He's the real deal. He will always show us love, patience, kindness; He will always be attentive and interested in us. Some of us have a hard time imaging God as our Father. When our own dads are less than perfect, we question how God could be a Good Father. We don't like the connotation of "dad" at all, so we don't need nor want to see God as our Father. But God is a Good Father and we are God's children! He created us. Isaiah 64:8 – *Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.*

We know that Jesus was both fully God and fully man. In human form, Jesus spoke of God as Father, modeling for us what our relationship could be with God, as our Father, how intimate and wonderful it could be.

In John 1:12-13, we read *Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

When we receive Jesus as our Savior, when we believe in His Name – we are children of God. Besides being our Protector, our Provider and our Creator – God is loving – and we don't have to earn that love. God is faithful. God is filled with wisdom and gives it generously. James 1:5 says, *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* God is compassionate. God knows us intimately (Psalm 139:1-3 *You have searched me, Lord, and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts with all my ways.* God is approachable (in fact God wants us to talk to Him all the time!) God, our Father wants only the best for us, but being a Good Father, God loves us enough to discipline us, correct us, direct our paths back to the better road. God is merciful and God is good! God's patience and kindness will never run out. By now you know my favorite scripture, Romans 8:38-39 ... NOTHING can separate us from the love of God! We can't earn God's love, but we also can't lose God's love!!!

We call God "Father" because that is what God wanted all along, from the moment we were created. I have an amazing dad. I didn't do anything special to earn his love. I wasn't handpicked out of a bunch of kids, trying to find just the right child to give to a man who was going to be such a great dad. I guess I just lucked out. I know that not everyone is as blessed in the parent category as I am, but that doesn't mean you can't claim the perfect Parent as Father. This Father's Day, celebrate the best Father there ever was! Celebrate God!

- Rev Kath Ordiway

American Baptist Churches USA Announces Renewed Focus on Spiritual Direction

Valley Forge, PA (ABNS 5/14/21) —As a continuation of its 10-year emphasis on spiritual transformation and formation in the life of American Baptists, the ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary is excited to announce a renewed focus on the practice of spiritual direction. In recognition that the demand for spiritual direction is greater than ever due to this unprecedented time in which we live, an ABC Spiritual Direction Team has been called to aid those American Baptists who desire to explore the practice of spiritual direction as well as those who express their call to ministry as spiritual directors. Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins, Rev. Judy Fackenthal, and Rev. Brad Berglund, all certified spiritual directors, will serve together as our ABC Spiritual Direction Team.

American Baptist pastors and members of ABC congregations are encouraged to consider and engage in the practice of spiritual direction. The ABC Spiritual Direction Team has updated the spiritual formation website with added material, resources, and suggestions on how to both begin and continue engaging in the discipline of spiritual direction as well as connect with members of the spiritual direction community.

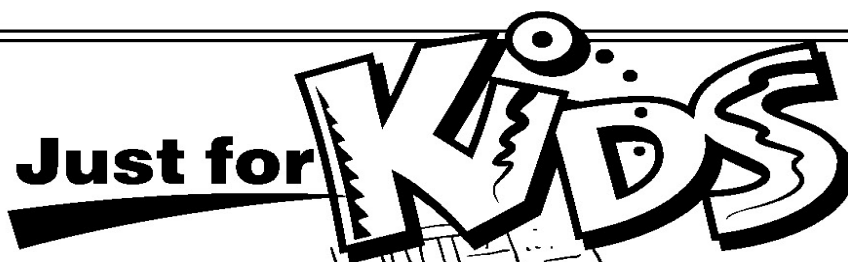
“We pray you will explore the website and consider the gift of spiritual direction for your life,” writes Rev. Judy Fackenthal. “As American Baptists we commit our lives to serving as the hands, feet, and voice of Christ. We recognize the need to be sustained in body, mind, heart, and soul for this task. Spiritual direction offers the gift of a trained companion who listens with us as God’s Spirit refreshes and guides us.” She further adds that a renewal of the American Baptist Spiritual Direction network and website gives space for spiritual directors to engage and support one another as well as a way for Baptists to locate a spiritual director near them.



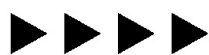
Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins describes this renewed spiritual direction community and website as “a sacred space for ABC clergy and laypersons to share resources and ideas as well as find a spiritual director.” Wright-Riggins adds, “Spiritual directors or companions are trained in guiding seekers in active continuous listening, inner quiet, prayer, and utilizing tools necessary for soul tending.”



The ABC Spiritual Direction Team hopes that ABC pastors and lay people will engage in spiritual direction as they navigate these turbulent times. “The ancient Christian practice of spiritual friendship is becoming a growing and much needed compliment to living out our life in Christ during the challenging and fractured times in which we live,” observes Rev. Brad Berglund. Extending an open invitation to all, he writes “this website is meant to serve as a portal into resources, identify spiritual directors, and network with other American Baptists who are practicing this vocation. Please take advantage of this opportunity and join us on the journey. You are most welcome.”





The Apostle Paul went on many journeys. He wrote many letters to his friends and to churches he had visited.



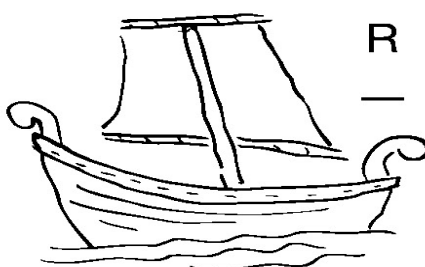
Unscramble the letters to find some of the places Paul visited.

CORINTH
ICONIUM

_____ □ _____ ○ _____ △ _____

_____  _____  _____  _____

_____0_____



— ★ — — — —

_____ 

“          the kingdom of God, and

those things which concern the










Lord Jesus Christ”

— *Acts 28:31, KJV*

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.
- ❖ What was the occasion?
- ❖ When and where was the picture taken?

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: An outdoor picnic: Left to right: "Aunt Alice" Hocking; Hazel Baxter; Joan Bowser.



ABHMS Launches \$1,000,000 Campaign to Address COVID-19

VALLEY FORGE, PA (6/9/20)—American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) officially launches its One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) United States and Puerto Rico campaign, “Our world continues to face an unprecedented public health crisis,” says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. “Households across the country are impacted emotionally, physically, spiritually, mentally, economically and relationally. A multitude of needs must be met, and we must unite as a people of faith to strengthen, help and uphold each other during this time of trial and recovery.”

The funds raised for ABHMS’ OGHS COVID campaign will be distributed across the United States and Puerto Rico as grants addressing the following needs:

- unemployment or loss of income;
- housing, hunger and access to healthcare;
- churches and community organizations that provide shelter and relief for immigrant populations;
- programs that support the well-being and mental health of faith leaders, congregations and communities; and
- support for American Baptist regions and denominationally-related colleges, universities and seminaries, along with community ministries (Neighborhood Action Programs and other service organizations) that are serving families in marginalized settings.

One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs.

[One Great Hour of Sharing](#) is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. The committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering received by churches.

International Ministries, also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life for all creation.